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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/522,249	01/25/2005	Kazuyuki Kashiwabara	2005-0091A	6203
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EXAMINER				
TAHA, SHAQ				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/522,249

Applicant(s)

KASHIWABARA ET AL.

Examiner

SHAQ TAHA

Art Unit

2446

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 October 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3 - 5, and 13 - 18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3 - 5, and 13 - 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 January 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This is a non-final action for application number 10/522,249 based on after a Non-final filed on 10/14/2008. The original application was filed on 01/25/2005. Claims 1, 3 – 5, and 13 – 18 are currently pending and have been considered below. Claim 1 is amended. Claims 2, 6 – 12 are cancelled. Claims 1, 14, 15 and 16 are independent claims.

Applicant's Response

Applicant's arguments filed in the amendment filed 10/14/08, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The reasons are set forth below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 5, and 13 - 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Joon-Bo et al. (US 2002/0055978), in view of Matoba et al. (US 6,392,669).

Regarding claims 1, 14, 15 and 16, a device, having a master function for managing at least one slave device, for use in a network system in which a master device manages the at least one slave device, and the master device is allowed to shift a managing function thereof to one of the at least one slave device, the device comprising: an own device information managing section operable to manage own device information of the device, which includes at least predetermined information, regarding a state change of the device, **[(Joon-Bo et al.), Fig. 3, Ref # 300a shows a master device and slave devices, wherein one of the slave devices will become a master device depending on the state change of the device, The RSSI, which is measured by each slave and provided to the network master 400, is closely related to the distances between each of the network slaves 300 and the network master 400, (Joon-Boo et al., Paragraph 45, Page 30);**

an other device information managing section operable to manage other device information regarding at least one other device connected to the network system, the other device information including at least availability of the master function, **[(Joon-Bo et al.), Fig. 3, Ref # 300b shows a master device and slave devices, wherein one of the slave devices will become a master device depending on the state change of the device, The RSSI, which is measured by each slave and provided to the network master 400, is closely related to the distances between each of the network slaves 300 and the network master 400, (Joon-Boo et al., Paragraph 45, Page 30);**

a device information processing section operable, when the device operates as the master device, to specify, at a predetermined time, a slave device from among a plurality of slave devices which are the master device candidates indicated by the schedule information in a segment of at least time of day or season corresponding to the predetermined time based on the other device information, **[In the step (b), a slave having higher RSSI is given a higher priority, which is used to choose a new network master, wherein one of the slave devices is chosen to become master device depending on the information received regarding that device, (Joon-Boo et al., Paragraph 16, Page 2)];**

and operable to obtain predetermined information regarding a state change of the specified slave device from the specified slave device, **[determining a rank indicating an order for choosing the new network master, which is received before the disappearance of the preexisting network master, wherein a slave device is chosen to become master depending on predetermined information regarding that slave device, (Joon-Boo et al., Paragraph 20, Page 2)];**

and a switch controlling section operable to compare the predetermined information regarding the state change of the specified slave device obtained by the device information processing section with the predetermined information regarding the state change of the device included in the own device information, and operable, when the state change of the specified slave device is smaller than the state change of the device, to switch operation of the device and the specified slave device with each other by causing the specified slave device to perform a master operation operated by the

device and causing the device to perform a slave operation operated by the specified slave device, **[if the preexisting network master disappears, determining a rank indicating an order for choosing the new network master, which is received before the disappearance of the preexisting network master; and (c) changing a role to the new network master, if the rank is the highest, wherein to choose a new device to become a master device depends on the state change information if the slave device, wherein if the slave has a higher link quality then it becomes a master device, (Joon-Bo et al., Paragraph 20, Page 2)]**;

Joon-Bo et al. fails to teach a schedule information managing section operable to manage schedule information indicative of master device candidates by a plurality of segments of at least time of day or season;

Matoba et al. teaches displaying a schedule for a plurality of users on a schedule management apparatus which is provided with a display screen and an input device and manages personal schedule information registered for each of the plurality of users, **(Matoba et al., Col. 3, Lines 16 – 20)**, in order to display a schedule of at least a part of said specified plurality of users based on the personal schedule information of said at least a part of said plurality of users, **(Matoba et al., Col. 3, Lines 20 – 25)**;

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Joon-Bo et al. by including a schedule information managing section operable to manage schedule information indicative of master device candidates by a plurality of segments of at least time of day or season, displaying a schedule for a plurality of users on a schedule management apparatus which is

provided with a display screen and an input device and manages personal schedule information registered for each of the plurality of users, **(Matoba et al., Col. 3, Lines 16 – 20).**

Regarding claim 3, the device according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined time is a time when a change occurs to the own device information of the device managed by the own device information managing section, **[Bluetooth equipped devices monitor the mutual connection status every cycle, for example, in a period of 0.625 ms-40.9 sec, with a link supervision timer. Based on this, the network slaves 300 check their connection status with the network master 400, wherein the time is the time when change occurs to the information of the device, (Joon-Bo et al., Paragraph 48, Page 4)].**

Regarding claim 5, the device according to claim 3, wherein the change of the own device information of the device is a reduction in communication quality, **[slave having higher link quality value is given a higher priority for being chosen as a new network master, (Joon-Bo et al., Paragraph 17, Page 2)].**

Regarding claim 13, the device according to claim 1, wherein the switch controlling section transmits the other device information managed by the other device information managing section to the specified slave device, **[Network slaves 300 can read the RSSI value of a signal transmitted from the network master 400 using an**

HCI command, "Read-RSSI", prescribed in the Bluetooth standard, (Joon-Bo et al., Paragraph 45, Page 4)].

Regarding claim 17, the device according to claim 1, wherein the master device candidates indicated by the schedule information in a segment of time of day is at least one device other than a device which is likely to be frequently used in the segment of the time of day, **[The RSSI, which is measured by each slave and provided to the network master 400, is closely related to the distances between each of the network slaves 300 and the network master 400, wherein the back up master is the slave device closest to the master device will be used more frequently, (Joon-Bo et al., Paragraph 45, Page 4)].**

Regarding claim 18, the device according to claim 1, wherein the master device candidates indicated by the schedule information in a segment of season is at least one device other than a device which is likely to be frequently used in the segment of season, **[in FIG. 5, slave A 300a is designated as the fourth ranked backup master BACKUP 4, slave B 300b is designated as the first ranked backup master BACKUP 1, slave C 300c is designated as the second ranked backup master BACKUP 2, slave D 300d is designated as the third ranked backup master BACKUP 3, and slave E 300e is designated as the fifth ranked backup master BACKUP 5, (Joon-Bo et al., Paragraph 47, Page 4)].**

Claim 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Joon-Bo et al. (US 2002/0055978), in view of Matoba et al. (US 6,392,669), and further in view of Palm et al. (US 2004/0218620).

Regarding claim 4, Joon-Bo et al. teaches a method for managing a network in which Bluetooth equipped devices are linked together when the network master cannot serve as a master, **(Joon-Bo et al., Abstract)**;

The modified Joon-Bo et al. Fails to teach that the change of the own device information of the device is a reduction in a remaining amount of battery life;

Palm et al teaches mastering assignment may be performed in an effort to distribute mastering duties among the plurality of wireless terminals to uniformly drain the batteries of the wireless devices, **(Palm et al., Paragraph 24, Page 2)**; in order to one of the wireless terminals acts as a master to coordinate the transmission and receptions of the slaves so as to reduce the power consumed by all of the devices, **(Palm et al., Abstract)**;

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the modified Joon-Bo et al. by including that the change of the own device information of the device is a reduction in a remaining amount of battery life, mastering assignment may be performed in an effort to distribute mastering duties among the plurality of wireless terminals to uniformly drain the batteries of the wireless devices, **(Palm et al., Paragraph 24, Page 2)**; in order to one of the wireless

terminals acts as a master to coordinate the transmission and receptions of the slaves so as to reduce the power consumed by all of the devices, (Palm et al., Abstract).

Response to Arguments

The Applicant Argues:

That Joon-Bo et al. does not teach to switch operation of the device and the specified slave device with each other by causing the specified slave device to perform a master operation operated by the device and causing the device to perform a slave operation operated by the specified slave device.

In response, the examiner respectfully submits: Joon-Bo et al. teaches checking for a change to the master mode if there is no connection request from a new device in step (e), returning to the step (d) when there is no change to the master mode, and terminating the master mode when there is a change to the master mode. In step (h), the change to the master mode is determined when the role of the device serving as the network master is changed to a slave by a user, when the Bluetooth function of the master is switched off, or when power of the master is turned off, (Joon-Bo et al., Paragraph 22 and 23), Joon Bo et al. further teaches if the preexisting network master disappears, determining a rank indicating an order for choosing the new network master, which is received before the disappearance of the preexisting network master; and (c) changing a role to the new network master, if the rank is the highest, wherein to choose a new device to become a master device depends on the state change information if the slave device, wherein when the slave has a higher link quality than the

master device, the slave device becomes a master device by switching the master device operation to the slave device since it became the master device, (Joon-Bo et al., Paragraph 20, Page 2).

The Applicant Argues:

That Matoba et al. does not teach schedule information indicative of master device candidates. Accordingly, Matoba does not disclose or suggest the schedule information managing section.

In response, the examiner respectfully submits: Matoba et al. teaches displaying a schedule for a plurality of users on a schedule management apparatus which is provided with a display screen and an input device and manages personal schedule information registered for each of the plurality of users, wherein managing personal schedule information refers to schedule information of the master device, (Matoba et al., Col. 3, Lines 16 – 20).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Shaq Taha** whose telephone number is 571-270-1921. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5pm Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Jeff Pwu** can be reached on 571-272-6798.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free?).

/S. T./

Examiner, Art Unit 2446

/Jeffrey Pwu/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2446

